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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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PARK IS IN THE FUTURE

Brooklyn's waterfront oasis takes shape

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Bridge Park is finally being built.

The decades-old dream of a waterfront greenspace stretching from DUMBO to the foot of Atlantic Avenue — up to now, a dream deferred, thanks to a state requirement that the park be self-sustaining — is beginning to take shape.

A fully landscaped Pier 1 at the end of Old Fulton Street and a partial park on Pier 6 at the southern end will open just before the end of the year, said Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer, who gave The Brooklyn Paper a tour of the construction site.

Myer said that the full work on Pier 1 and the partial work on Pier 6 would cost around \$100 million and require about \$4 million per year for maintenance. For now, \$3 million per year is being contributed from the residents of the One Brooklyn Bridge Park condo, who make "payments in lieu of taxes" for park upkeep.

Myer said that the condo building has been making such payments since early 2008, so there is enough money in the bank to maintain the soon-to-open greenspace until additional residential, commercial and hotel properties join the funding stream, although it remains in doubt whether such sources of cash will materialize.

And vast portions of the park remain unfunded.

"We're building what we can build and we believe that once it's done, it will provide the impetus for the next step," Myer said.

In addition to the work on Pier 1, Pier 6 is being readied as a "destina-



THE STOOP: Granite recovered from construction sites form a set of stairs right up against the East River, providing a stoop-like gathering point. Hopefully, stoop-drinking tickets won't be issued.



A wide, bench-lined walkway (left) will bring visitors into the park and towards a great lawn with views of the Brooklyn Bridge (center). Park designers have also excavated part of Pier 1 to create a tidal pool of the water itself, a popular feature of the city park at the foot of Main Street in nearby DUMBO.

Find out what Council candidates are saying about Brooklyn Bridge Park at

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tion playground," a dog run, volleyball nets and a food and beer concession.

And the current parking zone at the foot of Old Fulton Street will be transformed into a planted gateway to the park itself, a change that is not reflected on any current renderings.

"We have to do this so that people feel that they are entering a grand park," Myer said.

"Right now, it's a parking area, not a gateway."

CREAM OF THE CROPS



Stacey Murphy and Bruni Torres are urban sharecroppers.

These agri-babes will turn your backyard into a farm

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

In the backyard of Zac Fisher's Ditmars Park home, there's a cabbage patch where the lounge chair should be.

And where most people put the barbecue, Fisher has collard greens.

And where neighbors and friends would gather at a big metal table, there's a hydroponic lettuce nursery.

Fisher doesn't do any farming — "If I did that, nothing would grow," he said — but instead has chosen to participate in what could be one of the greatest urban agricultural movements, if not the only urban agricultural movement, since the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Fisher put up one-quarter of the initial seed money (that's figurative and literal, of course) and turned over the day-to-day operation of his 600-square-foot backyard to Stacey Murphy, founder of BK Farmyards. In exchange, he gets 25 to 33 percent of the crop.

It's sharecropping, but with a Brooklyn accent.

"Actually, that was our slogan originally — 'Sharecropping, Brooklyn-style,'" said Murphy, an architect by trade. "But we worried that it would be offensive, so we went with 'You have the land, we grow the produce.'"

Murphy, a Michigan native who now lives in farm-free Brooklyn Heights, started BK Farmyards in May and already counts

two Ditmars Park backyards as her partitioned plantation. Six more landowners say they'll turn over their yards next spring, when they can get a full growing season.

"I had to come to New York City to become a farmer," Murphy said, showing off three rows of produce that run the gamut from Swiss chard to tomatoes to herbs to eggplants to beets.

The concept is simple: there are tens of thousands of unfarmed acres in Brooklyn, but all that arable land is imprisoned in backyards.

See **BACKYARDS** on page 11



Pork — the other light meat: Fed money will pay for antique streetlights.

Heights lights of fancy

Uncle Sam to pick up tab for replica lamps

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

A \$27-million plan to install antique-looking lampposts will bring light to Brooklyn Heights — but it ain't light on the wallet.

The Brooklyn Heights Association is on the verge of securing \$400,000 in pork from Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Sunset Park) to join \$250,000 that the group has already received via Councilman David

Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) — money that will fund the replacement of the 229 still-functioning "cobrahead" streetlights with replicas of cast-iron, "bub-op's crooks" lamps befitting a historic neighborhood.

Such old-timey lights already line Montague Street and the north side of Atlantic Avenue, and they illuminated all of Brooklyn Heights when the neighborhood became the city's first historic district

in 1965. But the iconic curved lamps were ripped out later in that decade to make room for today's Modernist aluminum poles.

Each replica bishop's crook light costs about \$10,000, while a standard cobra head lamp retails for only \$4,000, said a spokesman from the Department of Transportation — the agency which oversees all street light issues.

But the antique-looking

streetlights are well worth the high price, according to Brooklyn Heights Association President Judy Stanton.

"They are beautiful, they enhance the neighborhood, and they are consistent with the history of the Heights," said Stanton, who described the installation of the replica lamps as a means of creating jobs and promoting tourism.

See **LIGHTS** on page 6



George Smith's mugshot.

Republican Party's Smith and lesson

GOP candidate says he's a changed man since 1996 robbery conviction

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

One Republican City Council candidate is not running on his record — his criminal record, that is.

George Smith, a long shot to succeed Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) in the heavily Democratic district, is currently facing sex abuse charges.

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and served jail time in 1996 for impersonating a police officer while committing a robbery.

Yet even with this rap sheet, and pressure from his opponent and some party officials to spare

them the embarrassment of his scandal-ridden bid and, Smith will continue his run for public office.

"Yes, we have volunteers out there now," Smith told The Brooklyn Paper on Wednesday, the day after he participated in a Transportation Alternatives debate hours after The New York Post reported his legal travails.

Smith is scheduled to appear in Nassau County court on Sept. 9, six days before the primary, for misdemeanor sex abuse, sexual misconduct, forcible touching and harassment from an incident last December involving his estranged wife.

He faces a year in jail, the district attorney's office said. "I'm 100 percent innocent,"

he said.

Court filings suggest otherwise.

Documents obtained by The Brooklyn Paper show that in March, Nassau County Supreme Court ordered Smith to return \$50,005 for the joint checking account he shared with

See **SMITH** on page 5



George Smith's headshot.



Tommy Safian, owner of Nova Zembla, an Atlantic Avenue furniture store, is still fighting an expensive Con Ed bill.

SHOCKED!

\$1,200 for his electric bill

By Shannon Geis
The Brooklyn Paper

He may have been the victim of a crime, but Tommy Safian is the who is paying the penalty.

Con Edison has hit the furniture store owner with a bill for \$1,400 that covers three months of service — even though Safian has years

of documentation showing that he never had a monthly bill more than \$50 at his Red Hook warehouse.

"It's just an unmanned warehouse with an electric gate and some fluorescent lights," said Safian, owner of Nova Zembla, an Atlantic Avenue furniture store. "There's

See **SHOCKED** on page 11

TAXMAN IS FIXING A HOLE

Stalled D'town tower gets by with a little help from the feds

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

A constant Downtown development got the breath of life last week, in the form of a \$20 million in tax-exempt federal stimulus bonds to jumpstart the stalled plan to construct housing, retail space, and offices at Albee Square.

The delayed CityPoint project — which initially included plans for the tallest building in the borough, more than 800 apartments, as well as commercial space and room for national retailers — will receive the federal

bailout because work on the shovel-ready project might help the neighborhood's economy, said David Lombino, senior vice president of the city's Economic Development Corporation.

"It represents an investment in a neighborhood that was witnessing a lot of private investment a few years ago during the boom, but has recently dried up," said Lombino. "We think this investment is important to keep up the momentum in the neighborhood."

The project, located along the Fulton Mall be-



The developers of the former site of the Albee Square Mall wanted a bailout — and they got it! The planned building is shown at left.

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Man mugged on way to work

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Three men followed their victim on his Sixth Avenue home on Aug. 14 and eventually pulled a gun and mugged him for cash, cards and fancy electronics.

The victim told cops that he had left his home, which is at 10th Street, at around 4:50 am to head to work when the three men slowed up out of nowhere and one pulled out a gun.

"Give me your wallet," the gunman suggested.

When the victim complied, the other two men rifled his bag, stealing an iPod, a BlackBerry, credit and debit cards, clothes and a spiral notebook valued at \$2.

The victim still had to go to work.

A big bite

A thief broke into a 12th Street apartment on Aug. 7 and stole a computer and a fancy gaming system.

The tenant in the unit, which is between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West told cops that he was not in the apartment from 1:30 until 10:30 pm, giving the thief ample time to break in through a rear window and take the Apple laptop and the Xbox console.

Meat is mug

A Boar's Head driver was robbed of \$12,000 in a brazen attack by a gunman and two accomplices on Bergen Street on Aug. 14.

The man was making a delivery on the great block

POLICE BLOTTER

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Wheel bad

And, of course, it would not be Park Slope without a spate of car thefts and break-ins. Here's the damage:

• A man who parked his car on Ninth Street near Fifth Avenue at around 3:50 am on Aug. 15 returned just minutes later to find that it had been stolen. He later told cops that he had left the keys in the ignition of the Nissan Altima as he got coffee at a deli.

• Another man lost his car when he left it running at the corner of Fifth Avenue and First Street on Aug. 15 at around 6:30 am. This time, the vehicle was a 2007 Chevy Equinox valued at \$31,000.

• The stretch of Flatbush Avenue near the Prospect Park Zoo was once again a thieves' playground as a Dodge Durango, with thousands of dollars in photographic equipment, was stolen on Aug. 15 at around 3 pm. The quiet stretch between Grand Army Plaza and Empire Boulevard makes regular appearances in these pages.

• A thief stole all four tires off a Honda Fit that had been parked on 11th Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West overnight on July 10. The crime was in the blotter this week because the victim, who lives on 13th Street,

finally got the bill for the missing wheels — and it exceeded \$2,000, making this a grand, not petty, larceny case.

• Five days later on the same block, a thug smashed through the front window of a 2003 Volkswagen and stole a video iPod.

Don't smoke

Two knife-wielding scumbags slashed a man on Third Street on Aug. 5 after asking him to bum a smoke.

The 26-year-old victim told cops that he was heading near the corner of Fourth Avenue at around 11 pm when one of the thugs approached and said, "Can I have a cigarette?"

When the man refused, the man made the demand a bit more expensive.

"Give me your money," he said, grabbing the man's Yankee cap and then pulling out the knife.

That's when the victim handed over \$70, but that wasn't enough, apparently, so the thug slashed the man in the upper arm.

Both men fled towards Third Avenue and the victim walked himself to New York Methodist Hospital.

Dean scream

A resident of Dean Street came home on Aug. 6 to find that a thief had broken in and taken a \$2,000 leather jacket and lots of tools.

The tenant told cops that he was not in the building, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm that day.

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76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Coldie Hill-Red Hook

Skelly skull

A thief snatched a teen's cellphone on Aug. 7 while the victim played the classic Brooklyn street game skelly.

The crook grabbed the navy T-Mobile Sidekick from 15-year-old victim's back pocket as he bent over to play the long-lost bottle cap game at around 9:15 pm on West Ninth Street between Columbia and Hicks streets.

Burrito bandito

A gun-toting crook mugged a Court Street man inside a Mexican restaurant in a brazen Aug. 2 stick-up.

The mugger — who was sitting on the victim's stoop before the robbery — confronted the 23-year-old when he returned home at around 10 pm and demanded cash.

The victim declined, and instead of entering his home, which is between Baltic and Kane streets, he walked to a nearby eatery.

The mugger followed the victim into the restaurant, this time revealing the handle of

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WM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Finally, a supermarket in Hill

By Robin Riskin
for The Brooklyn Paper

A new grocery store is usually not big news, but in Clinton Hill, where residents have long complained of limited access to fresh produce, the opening of Fresh Fanatic earns headlines.

The brainchild of brothers David and Andrew Goldin and their friend Joshua Nimmer, the store at the corner of Park and Waverly avenues hopes to do for Clinton Hill what Fairway did for Red Hook and Trader Joe's did for Cobble Hill.

"In 10- to 15-block radius, there's nothing else here," David Goldin said.

Of course, that's not completely true, what with an Associated Supermarket just three blocks away at Myrtle Avenue and Ryerson Street, and a Bravo Supermarket one avenue away at Myrtle and Washington Avenue.

But Associated doesn't have a chef who used to work at Balducci's. And Bravo doesn't have a vast organic and specialty selection, wood-paneled walls, flat-screen TVs, samples galore, and top-notch customer service.

That said, it does have loyal fans. "The new place is too expensive for us," said Tim Gorman, an Associated customer and local firefighter. "We're frugal."

Prices are higher at Fresh Fanatic: organic Black Forest ham is \$8.45 per pound there, but \$8 at Associated. Cole slaw is \$2.45 per pound, up from \$2 at Associated.

But on organic items, Fresh Fanatic's prices are better: Organic lettuce is \$3.86, a savings from the \$5 at Associated and the \$4 at Bravo. A carton of organic raspberries is \$3.32.

At Associated they're \$4. Homemade hummus is just \$2.10 per pound, while Associated's generic version is \$5.38 per pound.

Fresh Fanatic is the latest combatant in what has been a long "supermarket war" in Clinton Hill. Last year, the dire need for more fresh foods led the city to move ahead with a plan to tear down a row of historic buildings at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to pave the way for a large, Fairway-style grocery there.

Until that store opens about 10 blocks away, an uneasy peace seems to be settling in.

"I'll keep coming to Fresh Fanatic for the fish, but I'll do most of my shopping at Associated," said customer June Magee.



Andrew Goldin's new market offers 50-cent portions of prepared foods.

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A wine-lose situation

Restaurant's rack raided

By Robin Riskin
for The Brooklyn Paper

Someone trashed Amin Indian restaurant in Fort Greene — and then got trashed — on Aug. 14.

Sometime after the DeKalb Avenue eatery closed for the night, a no-gooder smashed the front door of the restaurant, entered, wrecked the place, and made off with cases of wine and \$25.

The crook was caught on video surveillance from Elly's Market across the street, so cops have a lot to go on.

It's not the first time that the humble Indian restaurant near Chermont Avenue has been burglarized. Last year, during a spate of overnight break-ins along DeKalb Avenue, someone took \$200, wine, two calculators, a lighter and a flashlight.

And the latest break-in comes during a bad week for crime in the 88th Precinct, which includes Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. There were four burglaries during the week ending on Aug. 16, up from one during the same week last year. And robberies were up to eight from just two over the same period last year.

Over the last month, robberies are up 75 percent from the same month last year, though they are down 18 percent so far this year.



Arif Sarkef works at Amin Indian on DeKalb Avenue, which was robbed again a few days ago. The crooks took mostly wine from the shelf.

Thugs took on the wrong men

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
3 vs. 2

Two thugs picked the wrong targets on Carlton Avenue on Aug. 16, trying to mug three men, but ending up getting arrested instead.

Three friends were coming back from a restaurant at around 1:30 am when two crooks came up from behind DeKalb and Wiloughby avenues.

One of the thugs demanded, "Give me everything you have," while the other brandished a firearm.

Instead of handing over their wallets, the men — two aged 31 and one age 32 — decided to fight back, and the perps gave up and ran away.

Cops say that they later caught the villains on Carlton Avenue — and they had pot on them.

Talk about sick
A purse-snatching duo was on the loose in Brooklyn Hospital on Aug. 12 — but cops quickly put an end to the reign of terror.

The men were walking through the corridors of the hospital, which is on DeKalb Avenue between St. Felix Street and Fort Greene Place, with three purses, and hospital officials quickly figured out that something was up.

The pair was caught at around 12:30 pm.

Body work
A serial crook robbed the Bath & Body Works again on Aug. 15.

The manager of the shop, which is in the Atlantic Center Mall near Flatbush Avenue, recognized the repeat offender when she entered the store around 11 am and confronted the perp, who had stocked up a shopping bag and was attempting to leave.

The thief then bit the manager's right hand and broke the manager's nail, fleeing with \$300 worth of toiletries.

Thief in disguise
A mustachioed thief posing as a hobo took advantage of a Good Samaritan on Aug. 15.

Cops say that the man

approached his victim as he sat in a cab on Flatbush Avenue near DeKalb Avenue at around 5:45 am and asked, "Can I get a dollar?"

The man gave him a buck, but that wasn't enough.

The crook walked away, but came right back and reached inside the cab and stole the charitable man's bag right out of his lap.

The 45-year-old man lost \$900, his cellphone, and some cards and documents.

Subway snatch

A thief sneaked into a Subway restaurant on Fulton Street and stole from the owner herself on Aug. 6.

The 39-year-old victim had left her purse in the back of her restaurant, which is near Red Hook Lane, but when she looked for the bag at around 4:30 pm, she discovered that \$3,000 was missing.

Run it

Three crooks overtook a man late on Vanderbilt Avenue early on Aug. 13.

The 26-year-old victim was near DeKalb Avenue at around 2:30 am when the thieves blocked him and one commanded, "Run yours."

The victim handed over his black knapsack, which contained a MacBook, iPod, camera, and phone.

Flashy crime

A crook broke into a Leffert Place apartment on Aug. 11, pulled out a handgun and robbed electronics and cash from the tenant.

Cops said that the thief entered the residence, which is between Grand and Classon avenues, at around 4 pm and hit the 26-year-old with the gun. He then took a PlayStation game, a cellphone, and \$200 before fleeing.

Freaky eyes

A crook with eye of different colors was on the prowl on Aug. 15.

At around 6 am, the thief set his multi-colored eyes on a woman on Washington Avenue and shouted, "Shut up and give me your money!"

She turned over \$40, and the thief fled from the scene, which is between Fulton Street and Gates Avenue.

— Robin Riskin

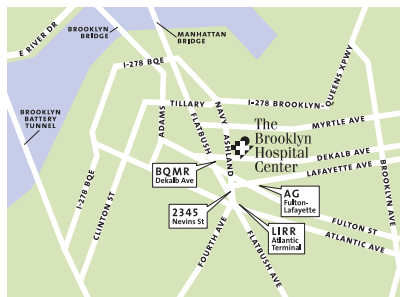
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Rezoning plan is the Bermuda 'Triangle' in race

Controversial city housing proposal is so hot that it's become the main issue even in neighboring district

By Ben Muessegger
The Brooklyn Paper

The most important issue in the race for Williamsburg and Bushwick's 34th Council District isn't even in the 34th Council District.

And, believe it or not, that's an issue in itself.

In a battle against her former mentor, incumbent Councilwoman Diana Reyna (D-Williamsburg) has gone outside of her district to make an issue of the city's controversial plan to make mid-rise residential development in the Broadway Triangle — a largely industrial 31-acre swath of land in the neighboring 33rd Council District.

In the process, she has crafted a political litmus test for her competitors.

Reyna reviles the rezoning — which has the blessing of her former boss, Democratic Party chairman and Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick) — because the no-bid contracts that the city issued to two politically connected nonprofits groups gave those Lopez-linked organizations control of land bounded by Broadway and Flushing, Union and Harrison avenues.

"Community groups [with] a track record of developing and preserving affordable housing ... are angry that they have been left out," said Reyna, who is seeking her third term. "Whatever is built there impacts them. It will either include them or leave them behind."

Instead of supporting the city's plan to encourage the development of 1,851 units of mid-rise housing — almost half of them charging below-market-rate rents — she favors an alternate plan backed by a coalition of snubbed community groups that calls for high-rise buildings with as many as 3,751 new residential units — 1,800 of them affordable — on a larger site that also includes a plot owned by the drug-maker Pfizer.

Reyna's Lopez-endorsed rival, Maritza Davila, says the Broadway Triangle isn't relevant to the campaign — even though she works for a non-profit that stands to benefit from the project.

"I am focusing all of my energy, as I have been for the past 20 years, on affordable housing, education, and economic development issues in the 34th Council District," said Davila, a staffer at the Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, which, alongside the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, has been granted preliminary site control of land inside the Broadway Triangle.

Unlike the current Councilmember, I am not interested in spending all of my time and energy outside of my area, as I feel it does a huge disservice to the residents of the 34th District," she added in her prepared statement. "My priority and my commitment is to my constituents."

A third candidate — longtime CBI District Manager Gerry Esposito — favors the city's plan over the alternative proposal.

After two tumultuous hearings, Esposito's board voted in favor of the plan with stipulations seeking a cap on the amount of affordable housing built off-site, guarantees of a "transparent" process to eliminate no-bid contracts, and a fund to help relocate affected businesses, and a promise that open space will be created in the area. Though his job didn't allow him to vote at the controversial hearing, Esposito told The Brooklyn Paper that the city's Broadway Triangle proposal is better than the "pipe dream" that Reyna supports.

Though the fate of the Broadway Triangle will likely be decided before a new councilmember takes office, Esposito hypothesized that he would be open to entertaining other ideas for the site — so long as they were realistic.

"At the City Council, you can amend the plan," he said. "I'd like to hear what the options are. If someone is putting together something that is viable, it is certainly something that as councilmember I would listen to. Nothing in government should be cast in stone."

Finally, a 'super' market in Clinton Hill



Andrew Goldin's new market offers 50-cent portions of prepared foods.

By Robin Riskin
for The Brooklyn Paper

A new grocery store is usually not big news, but in Clinton Hill, where residents have long complained of limited access to fresh produce, the opening of Fresh Fanatic earns headlines.

The brainchild of brothers David and Andrew Goldin and their friend Joshua Nimmer, the store at the corner of Park and Waverly avenues hopes to do for Clinton Hill what Fairway did for Red Hook and Trader Joe's did for Cobble Hill — become a destination

for organic-minded foodies.

"In a 10- to 15-block radius, there's nothing else here," David Goldin said. Of course, that's not completely true, what with an Associated Supermarket just three blocks away at Myrtle Avenue and Ryerson Street, and a Bravo Supermarket one avenue away at Myrtle and Washington Avenue.

But Associated and Bravo don't have a chef who used to work at Balducci's. But they have loyal fans.

"The new place is too expensive for us," said Tim Gorman, an Associated customer and local firefighter.

"We're frugal."

Prices are higher at Fresh Fanatic: organic Black Forest ham is \$8.45 per pound there, but \$8 at Associated. Cole slaw is \$2.45 per pound, up from \$2 at Associated.

But on organic items, Fresh Fanatic's prices are better: Organic lettuce is \$3.86, a savings from the \$5 at Associated and the \$4 at Bravo. A carton of organic raspberries is \$3.32. At Associated they're \$4. Homemade hummus is just \$3.21 per pound, while Associated's generic version is \$5.38 per pound.

Fresh Fanatic is the latest combatant in what has been a long "supermarket war" in Clinton Hill. Last year, the dire need for more fresh foods led the city to move ahead with a plan to tear down a row of historic buildings at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to pave the way for a large, Fairway-style grocery there.

Until that store opens about 10 blocks away, an uneasy peace seems to be settling in.

"I'll keep coming to Fresh Fanatic for the fish, but I'll do most of my shopping at Associated," said customer June Magee.



A rezoning of the decrepit Broadway Triangle area in East Williamsburg has become the main issue in a race for the neighboring council seat.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Abat man is on the loose

90TH PRECINCT
Williamsburg-Bushwick

A bat-wielding madman assaulted a Williamsburg man on Montrose Avenue on Aug. 17.

The Ruthian thief approached his 29-year-old victim on the corner of Humboldt Street at 10 p.m. The victim, who was walking alone, was struck in the face and took \$100 from him. The victim was treated at Bellevue Hospital in another borough.

Broadway beat

A crazed and violent man mercilessly beat a Williamsburg straphanger at the Lenox Avenue subway station Aug. 18.

The enraged man approached the 22-year-old woman in the station's mezzanine — which is at Broadway — at 9 p.m. The thug proceeded to punch the victim in the face, drag her to the ground and bang her head against an iron gate, all the while saying and demanding nothing.

The violence didn't stop there. When police arrived, the 42-year-old punched an officer in the face before being apprehended, cops said.

Lo-jacked

A thug brutalized a fellow Brooklynite by pulling him out of his car on Aug. 16 — but he didn't get far before cops inflicted their own form of pain.

Police said that the villain manhandled the 33-year-old victim from the vehicle, which was stopped at the corner of N. Fifth Street and Wythe Avenue at 5:20 a.m. and beat him, yelling "Give me your money."

The thug took the cash and fled towards N. Sixth Street before being apprehended.

Woe Canada!

A trio of clumsy crooks got away with a Williamsburg woman's pocketbook — which held, among other things, her Canadian passport — on Aug. 16.

The perps approached the 24-year-old woman at 12:50 a.m. as she was making her way into her McKibbin Street building, which is between Siegel Court and White Street. One thug took her purse — which contained her iPhone, the Camcorder travel document, \$50, credit and debit cards, driver's license and Hofstra school ID — but then tripped on the sidewalk.

The victim followed the perp, but was pushed to the ground by another man.

Break-ins!

Burglars were running wild in Williamsburg last week. Here are the shocking details.

A stealthy villain ransacked a Lynch Street house on Aug. 18. The crook made off with jewelry, \$4,000, a camera, a silver wine bottle and a silver candle holder from the house, which is between Harrison and Marcy Avenues.

A crook burgled a Grattan Avenue apartment on Aug. 12, taking a laptop. The 32-year-old victim said he was not

in the apartment — which is between Knickerbocker and Porter avenues — until 5 p.m.

A couple's weekend get-away was ruined when they returned to their Marcy Avenue home on Aug. 15 to find it had been burgled. The lovers returned to their abode — between S. Second and S. Third streets — at 3 p.m. and found that their laptops and hard drive were missing.

Not so armored

Two employees of a famed armored car business got their hands on some cold hard cash — but one of the thieves was finally caught on Aug. 14.

Cops say that the Brinks workers had been siphoning \$350,000 from the payroll of a business on Kent Avenue near Keap Street — since Aug. 6.

Half of the money has been recovered, police said.

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Williamsburg

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THE STOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG

Kent won't go both ways

Avenue to become a one-way this week

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Kent Avenue was set to become a one-way street with a protected two-way bike lane by the end of this week, marking the official end of a botched roadway redesign that pitted cyclists against motorists in a fight for hegemony over the key link between Greenpoint and Downtown.

Workers began milling and resurfacing Kent Avenue between Clymer Street and Broadway on Monday, eliminating a controversial layout installed last fall that replaced hundreds of parking spaces with bike lanes on both sides of the north-south byway.

By the end of the week, the two-way street was transformed into a northbound-only road. New markings and signage will then turn hotly contested no-parking and no-standing zones into legal parking lanes — one of which will serve as a buffer for a protected, two-directional bike lane on the water front side of the roadway.

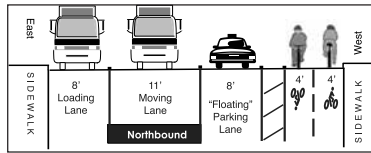
The section of Kent Avenue between Broadway and N. 14th Street will undergo similar changes in September, a Department of Transportation spokesman said.

With the move, the city is hoping to put to rest what has been the most controversial cycling-related development since the advent of bike-laneing in the Tour de France.

Before the paint was even dry on the preliminary lanes last fall, residents and business owners scorned the plan for removing vital parking and unloading spaces. Those complaints turned into all-out protests, which included the erection of an illegal "Detour" sign that blamed traffic on cyclists, and a counter-protest by cyclists clad in clown costumes.

The new one-way plan is meant to appease cyclists and drivers. The city, cycling advocacy groups, and some neighborhood residents and merchants have argued that the new design will improve Kent Avenue by recovering lost parking spaces, offering cyclists a protected space, and lowering the speed of car traffic.

Placing the two-directional bike lane on the waterfront side of the street also fits the framework for the planned Brooklyn Waterfront Green-



The city's plan for Kent Avenue will turn it from a two-way road with no parking and a bike lane on either side into a one-way road with parking on both sides and a two-way bike lane.

ter-protest by cyclists clad in clown costumes. The new one-way plan is meant to appease cyclists and drivers. The city, cycling advocacy groups, and some neighborhood residents and merchants have argued that the new design will improve Kent Avenue by recovering lost parking spaces, offering cyclists a protected space, and lowering the speed of car traffic.

Placing the two-directional bike lane on the waterfront side of the street also fits the framework for the planned Brooklyn Waterfront Green-

way, a two-way, landscaped cycling and walking path that will stretch from Greenpoint to Sunset Park. But some North Brooklynites oppose the plan to turn Kent Avenue into a one-way street out of concerns that truck traffic from the thoroughway will be routed onto inland residential blocks like Wythe Avenue, and across commercial corridors like Bedford Avenue.

Foes of the city's plan have launched an online petition drive, curcuring nearly 190 signatures, in an attempt to thwart the one-way plan.

COBBLE HILL

Author is about to go 'fourth'

Stands on brink of collecting a really big prize

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Cobble Hill author Arthur Phillips is poised to join the most elite strata of novelists — those with money.

And all he had to do was write a fourth novel that cost of withstand the scrutiny of literary hotshots like Michael Chabon and Jonathan Lethem.

Phillips is one of four writers — and the only Brooklyn resident — to reach the finals of a unique St. Francis College literary contest that will award \$50,000 to the best fourth-time novelist.

Book-world elites including Chabon, Lethem, and Heidi Julavitz and Ben Marcus, will judge Phillips' "The Song & You," which was released in April. Set in Brooklyn, the book tells the story of a middle-aged man whose life turns upside down when he falls in love with a young singer in an Atlantic Avenue bar.

"It's about associating music with memories of your life, and about it's being added to your headphones and your music collection," the writer



Cobble Hill author Arthur Phillips is up for a big grant.

and music-lover said. Contest organizers told The Brooklyn Paper in March that they decided to honor fourth-time writers because the fourth book represents an important moment in an author's career that is often overlooked by other contests. They also decided on the number as a way to limit the number of applicants, consid-

ering that there are far more first-time writers than fourth-time writers.

For Phillips, the fourth book is a strange coincidence in his 40th birthday — served as a turning point.

"The fourth novel certainly represents a psychological change in a career," he said. "With the fourth book, I feel like I'm treated as a writer who has been around for a while — and who, if he is going to keep sticking around, is going to have to do something else to keep getting people's attention."

Winning the prize might help keep him in the public eye, but it would definitely help "bankroll more writing," said Phillips, who is working on his fifth novel, which, rumor has it, has a Shakespearean leitmotif.

But the Brooklyn writer is facing some pretty tough competition from California poet and novelist Jim Kruse, whose satirical novel "Girl Factory" details a strange discovery in the basement of a frozen yogurt shop. Also on the short list are Aleksandar Hemon's short story collection "Love and Obstacles," which depicts the life of a young man in war-torn Sarajevo; and Nigerian-born writer Chris Abani's "Song of the Night," which tells the story of a 15-year-old searching for mines in Africa.

Win or lose, just making it onto the list is cause to celebrate for Phillips because it means his book will be read by the panel of famed writers.

"Knowing you are being read by esteemed company is one of the most thrilling things that can happen to you as a writer — besides actually writing a book," he said.

The winner of the prize will be announced at the Brooklyn Book Festival Gala on Sept. 12.

BAY RIDGE

Ridgites pass the hat for fire victims

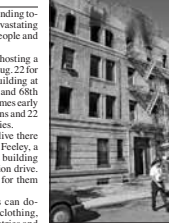
By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge residents are banding together to help victims of a devastating July 30 fire that injured 28 people and left dozens homeless.

Concerned neighbors are hosting a donation drive on Saturday, Aug. 22 for residents of the four-story building at the corner of Third Avenue and 68th Street that was engulfed in flames early on July 30, leaving six civilians and 22 firefighters with minor injuries.

"A lot of the people who live there lost everything," said Linda Feeley, a former superintendent of the building who is organizing the donation drive. "I decided to do something for them to help them out a little bit."

Big-hearted Brooklynites can donate men's and women's clothing, toys, bedding, furniture, toiletries and other household wares at the event in the parking lot of the Guild for Exceptional Children on 68th Street between Third Avenue and Ridge Boulevard from 11 am and 3 pm.



The fire at the corner of Third Avenue and 68th Street in Bay Ridge left dozens homeless.

This charity event — which was put together with help from Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) and state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) — follows last weekend's fundraiser for victims of the fire hosted by the Third Avenue watering hole Shenamigans.

Cynthia Perez — the building's superintendent — told The Brooklyn Paper that she is thankful for the help, but that residents are still desperately in need.

"There are some apartments that are just so burnt that you can't take anything out of them, and there are others where there is so much water damage that there is nothing to retrieve — and everything that can be taken out still smells like smoke," said Perez, who lost about 85 percent of her belongings and is now living with in-laws.

The blaze totally destroyed two top-floor apartments as well as a ground-floor beauty salon and the Sunnydale Deli.

FORT GREENE

Lots more green for Fort Greene Park

By Shannon Geis
For The Brooklyn Paper

Fort Greene Park is poised to get some real green from Congress — but even before the \$300,000 federal grant is approved, everyone wants a piece of that pork-filled pie.

There's certainly no shortage of improvements that could be made in the 162-year-old Olmsted and Vaux jewel. So let the lobbying begin!

"The park needs a lot of improvement, but I hope that the money goes to the area around the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument," said Ted General, vice president of the Society of Old Brooklynites, which has a ceremony every year at the memorial to the thousands of American soldiers who died about British prison ships during the Revolutionary War.

"But \$300,000 is not going to be enough," added General, who'll mark the 101st anniversary of the monument's dedication on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Fort Greene Park Conservancy Chairman Charles Jarden said that he had other priorities.

"We really need to fix the drainage and sewer systems throughout the entire park," he said. "The restroom can't be used until that is done."

And, of course, you can't use a restroom unless you know where it is, added Conservancy member Ruth "The

Truth" Goldstein.

"We need to set up some priorities," said Goldstein. "I know that we are certainly going to be working on adding more signs."

Goldstein said the Conservancy had lobbied Rep. Ed Towns (D-Fort Greene) for the cash for more than a year.

The congressman came through — though the Senate, which has other things on its plate, still needs to sign off on the park park.

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Two candidates, one subway, one issue

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Last week, Heyer announced that he would rally on Monday morning at the Carroll Street F and G-train stop to demand that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority repudiate its plan to close dozens of named-to-be-shut-down booths citywide.

And, sure enough, Heyer and his pregnant wife Marie were at the Manhattan-bound side of the President Street station at 7 a.m. handing out letters of protest.

But Josh Skaller, Heyer's rival for the seat currently occupied by Bill DeBlasio, also showed up to hand out his own campaign material. There were no fireworks,

however. Both candidates handed out their anti-closure literature, and the only battle was to grab the attention of rushed Manhattan-bound commuters, few of whom stopped.

Heyer who is facing three other Democratic rivals in the Sept. 15 primary for the seat, which covers the prime F-train territory from Kensington to Cobble Hill, said he was pleased that Skaller added his fare to the fight.

"In the end, we get more signatures [from riders] on letters going to the MTA, so it's fine," he said.

For his part, Skaller said he showed up for the same reason that Heyer announced his rally: to protest the MTA plan to shut dozens of 24-hour token booths starting on Sept. 20 as part of a plan by the cash-strapped transit agency to save \$52 million per year.

MTA workers are integral to the safe and efficient operation of the system," Skaller said, who called for independent, city-run oversight of the state agency.

Heyer said the larger issue is that the MTA is not trustworthy.

"Show us the books — show us that this \$52 million simply cannot be found anywhere else in the budget," he said. "How do we know that it can't be saved by cutting 10 percent off the top salaries and positions, rather than where the service is provided?"

A spokeswoman for New York City Transit said only that the implementation of the service reductions at 200 stations will begin on schedule and will be phased in slowly.

A third candidate, Gary Reilly, didn't show up at the station on Monday, but told The Brooklyn Paper that he shared Heyer and Skaller's concern about the President Street stop. That said, he said that "the root of the problem is not at the MTA, but state government [which] systematically underfunded mass transit and forced the MTA to take on too much debt."

And not to be outdone, the campaign of Brad Lander contacted The Brooklyn Paper after an online version of this story was first posted, claiming that Lander was actually out front on this issue by dint of an e-mail blast he sent to supporters on Saturday night, a day after Heyer sent out his media advisory.

In case the timing of all this activity is confusing, it should be noted that all five candidates for the seat met with Transit Workers Union officials last week in seeking the union's endorsement. Both candidates said

they offered support for the union's effort to curtail the booth closings.

RACING FORM

In other news in the district, front-runner **Brad Lander** picked up the endorsement of **Rep. Nydia Velázquez** (D-Sunset Park). The nod from the congresswoman came one week after rival **Bob Zuckerman** got his own Congressional imprimatur, winning the endorsement of **Rep. Anthony Weiner** (D-Sheepshead Bay). Velázquez toured Lander's work on affordable housing as the head of the Fifth Avenue Committee and the Pratt Center for Community Development. ... Not a day goes by when we don't receive an e-mail from **John Heyer** touting yet another endorsement by a key rabbi from the district's vast, undiscovered Borough Park segment. This week, his campaign heralded endorsements from Rabbi Michael Steinmetz, Grand Rabbi Chai Yitschok Twersky (also known as the Rosh HaShulchan Rebbe), and the Chernochev Rebbe.

Skaller, Heyer, Reilly, Lander and Zuckerman met for a debate last week, hosted by The Brooklyn Paper in collaboration with Brooklyn Independent Television, that can be viewed anytime at BoroPolitics.com and bricartsmedia.org/btpevents.

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SMITH...

Continued from page 1
his spouse.

"The allegations are false," Smith said, claiming that his wife fabricated them. The couple is divorcing, he said, and is also mired in a battle for child custody.

Still, as a precaution, Smith said he began recording all his phone conversations and threatened to sue a Brooklyn Paper reporter for disclosing the court order to repay the money that he allegedly pilfered from his brake.

Smith's legal problems go back to the mid-1990s when he spent a year behind bars for a robbery in Queens in which he posed as a cop.

"I was young and was hanging out with the wrong group of people," he said.

Luckily, Republicans in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington and Borough Park, have a choice at the polls.

Smith's opponent for the GOP nomination in the decidedly Democratic district is corporate strategist and Little

League coach Joe Nardillo who said Smith should drop out of the race.

"I have people who believe in me and an opponent who no one can believe," said Nardillo, who lives in Carroll Gardens. "He's capable of deceit at the highest level. ... He should probably do the right thing and step down."

Even if Smith loses the Republican contest, he'll still be on the ballot in November, because he secured the Conservative Party's nomination, too.

Smith said that the Conservatives knew about his dark past, but County Chairman Gerard Kassir disagreed.

"Under no circumstances did me or any of the committee members know of George Smith's criminal past," said Kassir. "We would not have felt it was appropriate to put a person on the ballot under these circumstances. We're encouraging Smith to come off the ballot [and] I'm certain there's nothing we'll do to support him."

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OUR OPINION

Your money at work

They made the unwise, risky investment. Now you're holding the bag.

That, in a nutshell, is what happened this week when the city announced that it would funnel \$20 million in federal stimulus money to the developers of the CityPoint tower in Downtown. So that they can move forward with the shopping mall portion of the project.

A shopping mall — enabled with your tax dollars.

Supporters of the bailout, including Downtown Brooklyn Partnership President Joe Chan, say that the federal money will jumpstart a project that is necessary to "diversify" the economy in Downtown. But a new shopping center on the site of the failed Albee Square Mall is hardly the economic diversity that Downtown needs.

Make no mistake: The Brooklyn Paper has championed the use of federal stimulus money for projects that will be true economic engines or build crit-

A private developer gets a stimulus bailout to build his stalled mall — and you, the taxpayer, get the bill.

ical infrastructure that will last for decades. But this shopping mall stimulus package does neither. It's just a bailout to a team of private, for-profit developers who made a bad investment.

Recall for a moment the history of the Albee Square site. Developer Joe Sitt bought it for \$25 million in 2001 and then flipped it for \$125 million just six years later. No one held a gun to the purchasers' head — they paid Sitt's inflated, Wild West boomtown asking price. Then, when real-estate values started falling (what — they don't always go up? Who knew?), the developers started looking for bailouts, first seeking a \$400-million tax-free loan from the city last year, and now get-

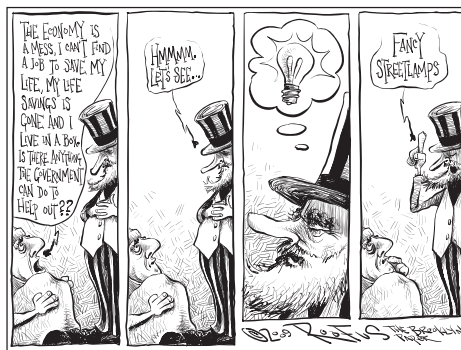
ting this \$20-million infusion.

The city created its "Recover NYC" bond program to help private, for-profit developers operating in so-called distressed areas such as Avenue H, Harlem or near Fendrum Road in The Bronx. A full list of other proposals is on the Economic Development Corporation Web site, and includes rejected grant requests for a hospital expansion, the construction of a school, and the redevelopment and renovation of the substandard Port Authority Bus Terminal in Washington Heights.

Downtown Brooklyn is not the kind of "distressed" area that the Recover NYC program seeks to aid. In fact, the 2004 Downtown Brooklyn Plan upon creating stunning wealth that has already encouraged massive, profitable skyscrapers and other ancillary development.

Taxpayers created that wealth by giving landowners billions in property value at the stroke of a zoning pen. And now we're being asked to give more.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

You know what? Gates should have been arrested!

To the editor,

I am very disappointed in the article by Mike McLaughlin "Adams Family Values," Aug. 14 on state Sen. Eric Adams' comments about the arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates.

McLaughlin is manufacturing a disagreement between Sen. Adams and President Obama where none exists.

Sen. Adams is correct. As a peace officer, one's duty is to immediately secure the scene. If that means handcuffing an unknown person on the premises of a possible break-in, that's what you do.

President Obama called the actions of the Cambridge police "stupid" because Sgt. Crowley

handcuffed and arrested Professor Gates after he was convinced Gates was the legitimate occupant of the home. We know this was the sequence because it is now Sgt. Crowley describes it in his own report.

This is the kind of shoddy journalism we see too often on cable television and almost never see in the pages of The Brooklyn Paper. **Fran Schaffer, N'hood withheld**

Editor's note: Sen. Adams said if McLaughlin reported it accurately, readers can decide for themselves how they feel about it.

The horror!

To the editor

The movie locasts showed up on my block in Cobble Hill last week, and it's been a mess ever since. For as many as 10 days, from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m., people work, build sets, provide lighting, run thousands of feet of electrical cable, and air-condition the space to offset the heat from the lighting.

Hundreds of parking spaces in Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights are taken — all with the mayor's permission. Residents and motorists are expected to put up with the disruption.

New York City gives the movie industry millions in tax breaks every

year just to encourage them to make pictures here. People also rent their houses as props for these movies for thousands of dollars a day, some for many days. This is a very costly deal for the movie-makers. Very costly also for the homeowners! But what about the rest of us?

There are external costs for making movies in neighborhoods. Taking 200 on-street parking spaces, some metered, most not, increases the traffic around our neighborhood as motorists seek out a reduced number of available spaces, increasing air pollution and traffic noise. Air pollution, traffic noise, congestion, wasted time, increased fuel consumption all add up.

The mayor, since he is so free with our tax dollars, should be forced to undertake a real cost-benefit analysis, not the one he drags out claiming that for every tax dollar turned over to the movie industry, \$1.90 is returned to New Yorkers. Other studies suggest the return actually leaves us well in the red.

As a resident, homeowner and taxpayer who has just experienced 10 days of the "benefits" the movie makers bring to us, I'd prefer if they pay the city for the grief imposed to produce their fuzzy-brained nonsense.

That would be a real Hollywood ending.

Brian Ketcham, Cobble Hill

Peas in a pod

To the editor,

Your Aug. 14 article about the public or private school status of a candidate's child left out a very important fact — not only does Josh Skaller's wife, Kelly, have a Master's degree in early childhood education, she is a science teacher who regularly teaches Brooklyn public school students ("A schoolyard brand").

Both Josh and Kelly understand the difficulties being faced by Brooklyn parents and they oppose "teaching to the test." Josh has the experience, training and vision to help create a better school system for the families of Brooklyn — and Kelly will be his knowledgeable ally in this struggle.

Lisa Fane, Park Slope

The writer is a volunteer communications director for the Skaller campaign.

To the editor,

In an era of mayoral control of public schools, the City Council has little direct impact on what goes on in the classroom, so the litmus test of whether a City Council candidate's child goes to public school has accordingly lost much of its punch.

As relevant as ever is a candidate's ability to do what is best for his constituents, rather than what is merely politically expedient.

Josh Skaller and his wife chose a school that in their judgment best addresses the special needs of their son, rather than one that best furthers Josh's political career.

We would be fortunate indeed to have a City Council member who governed with that same kind of integrity.

Laura Edidin, Carroll Gardens

Help Mom, Pop

To the editor,

One of the signs of a healthy and expanding small-business sector is the diversity of new businesses entering the market.

The turnover in storefronts on Seventh Avenue highlighted in Shannon Geis's article ("Here's what's happening on Seventh Avenue," Aug. 7) means that new business owners are entering the market, but there is less variety in the kinds of new businesses that are opening as the article also points out.

I have proposed a plan to help small-business owners purchase their own storefront space as re-

tail condominiums so they can stay in our community, even in tough economic times.

Some politicians see small businesses solely as a revenue source, but we must understand that they provide the majority of private sector jobs and add to the unique character of neighborhoods like Park Slope.

As your next City Councilman, I will focus on local mom and pop stores and not big box retailers and chain stores.

Bob Zuckerman, Carroll Gardens

The writer is a candidate for City Council in the 39th District.

Plane crazy

To the editor,

My family has lived in Bay Ridge for 15 years, and in all that time, airplane noise has never been as bad as it has been over last two and a-half weeks.

Directly over my building, jets are flying from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., sometimes as often as two per minute!

We live in apartment buildings where the sound is trapped among the buildings, echoing from one to another — an absolutely horrible effect.

Did the FAA perform any tests in the city with so many multi-story buildings?

Living in Bay Ridge, close to Fort Hamilton military base, we are used to helicopters and military planes — but they do not fly every minute or so for 17 hours a day. Please help us to protect Bay Ridge like you did with Park Slope from this new FAA policy.

They call it "Class B airspace redesign."

They must re-evaluate it, and speak with the public about it.

Lisa Fubenstein, Bay Ridge

Truck no!

To the editor,

I just read the online version of your story about the Kent Avenue bike lane ("One dimensional" Kent Avenue will no longer go both ways by the end of this week," online, Aug. 17) and have to say that this is the worst decision on the planet. They re-route max trailers to Whyte Avenue? The stupidest, most incompetent, public and idiotic plan will never work.

Sam Jacoby, Williamsburg

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LIGHTS...

Continued from page 1

"It's a wonderful ambience to walk through a neighborhood and see historic lights," Velazquez agreed — and she told The Brooklyn Paper in a statement that spending hundreds of thousands in federal taxpayer money on the lights would help boost the local economy.

"It will create new jobs in our community and attract more tourists to Brooklyn Heights, further stimulating economic activity," said Velazquez, whose cash is still awaiting Senate approval.

"Given the current state of the economy, it's important to support community-driven projects that help put New Yorkers to work."

Though the Brooklyn Heights Association has only secured funding for a quarter of the lighting project, which aims to replace every cobra head lamps in an area bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Court Street, Poplar Street, and Furman Street (though not on Furman Street itself), the group plans to begin installing the bishop's crook lights in phases, perhaps starting on the blocks near Montague Street and continuing north, Stanton said.

The project does not yet have an official starting date.

The classic lamps might look great, but not everyone believes they are deserving of the government perk.

"I think they are pretty, but they are not worth the money," said Brooklyn Heights Maria Byrnes.

Fellow Heights resident Marc White echoed her concern.

"The city should be spending money on something more substantive, less cosmetic," he said.

The lamp project still needs to receive approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission, though the agency has approved the installation of similar bishop's crook lights in other historic districts, a spokesman told The Brooklyn Paper.

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- **City Council 39th District**
Borough Park, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Street, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington
- **NYC Comptroller**
- **NYC Public Advocate**

Debates are moderated by The Brooklyn Paper's **Garth Rustenau** (left) and Brooklyn Independent Television's **Brian Weiss** (right), with panels drawn from CNG's prize-winning news team at The Brooklyn Paper, Courier-Life, Caribbean Life, Queens Times/Ledge Newspapers, and Bronx Times and Times Reporter.



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 21, 2009

the wall!

New climbing gym opens in old Gowanus garage

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Here's one workout that will drive you up the wall!

Gowanus's newly opened rock-climbing center — Brooklyn Boulders — is an urban jungle gym designed to push experienced mountaineers and first-time climbers to new heights (albeit in a two-story old Daily News garage on Third Avenue).

After a two-year hunt for suitable a Kings County location, Brooklyn Boulders founders Lance Pinn, Jeremy Bulboni and Stephen Spaeth converted the former garage into an alpinist's Eden with 11,000 square feet of climbable walls, room for a continuous 250-foot long traverse, more than 40 top-rope routes, a 28-foot tall climbable replica of the Brooklyn Bridge's iconic tower, and walls as steep as 45 degrees past vertical for harness-less "bouldering."

It sounds intense. It is. But that doesn't mean that the facility, which is at the corner of Third Avenue and Degraw Street, isn't the perfect place for first timers to cut their teeth (and hopefully nothing else) before they brave real mountains.

"The average person can't just go and climb outdoors, whereas, here, no experience is necessary," said Pinn, who hopes the gym will become a major spot on the birthday party circuit and a hub for corporate retreats once it has its real Grand Opening on Sept. 9. "It's not like climbing indoors is less extreme, it's just that everyone is doing what can be looked out for you."

And with help and instruction from staffers, Pinn insists that his gym can turn anybody — no matter the body type or age — into a modern-day Tenzing Norgay.

First timers can take an entry-level ropes class that will teach them everything from tying knots to taking falls (which shouldn't be too difficult, considering that the floors are padded with four layers of forgiving foam padding).

At the end of the course, climbers will receive belay certification, meaning they



Because it's there: Brooklyn Boulder instructor Ivan Greene (above) scales the walls of the Gowanus climbing gym, which will open in September at the corner of Third Avenue and Degraw Street. (At right) A Brooklyn Bridge replica can also be climbed.

FITNESS

Brooklyn Boulders (575 Degraw St. between Third and Fourth Avenues in Gowanus, (347) 834-9066). Now open weekdays, 6 pm to 10 pm, and some weekend hours. Full hours begin on Sept. 9. For information, class times, and costs, visit www.brooklynboulders.com.

can use the gym's ropes without a supervisor.

Every few weeks, staffers will change the placement of the pastel holds, offering local climbers a more dynamic, experiential

experience than the challenging walls at the Aviator Sports complex in Floyd Bennett Field and the less-difficult kid's rock wall at Powerplay on Third Avenue near Eighth Street — and a more convenient experience than the 100-mile trek to

"The Gunks," upstate's nearest climbing spot.

Pro climber Ivan Greene envisions the Gowanus facility becoming a hangout where first timers and experts can learn and practice side by side.

"Instead of going to yoga class or the gym, you're going to come here — it's a sick workout," said Greene, a route setter and instructor at Brooklyn Boulders. "Climbing is not an easy thing to do — but it's so much easier to climb here than it is outside. You can climb every kind of terrain, there are cushions all over the place, and you can walk from here to the deli when you get hungry."



Surfing

It's almost impossible to catch a wave in Brooklyn, but that doesn't mean the surfing scene isn't sweetening. And if there is any center to the community of longboarders and shortboarders who call Brooklyn home, it's Mollusk Surf Shop in Williamsburg. This low-key shop and hangout offers a wide array of boards, wetsuits and waves perfect for your next trip to Rockaway Beach — as well as tons of surf movies perfect for landlocked pipe dreamers. Mollusk Surf Shop (210 Kent Ave. at Metropolitan Ave. in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7456). For information, visit www.mollusksurfsupply.com. — Ben Muessig

Other ways to go extreme

Climbing isn't the only way to go extreme in Brooklyn. Here are some other action sports you can practice without leaving the borough:

Skateboarding

The staff at Homage Skateshop can turn any first-time skater into a thrilled wood-pusher. The Smith Street store offers regular skateboarding classes that start with basics like turning and advance all the way to complicated flip tricks. Group les-

sons start at \$30 per person, and private lessons start at \$60. If you're more into fashion than thrashing, the shop is loaded with skate-styled threads. It even serves fresh brewed cups of Mud coffee.

Homage Skateshop (151 Smith St. between Bergen and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 561-1511). For information, visit www.homagebrooklyn.com.

Diving

Scuba diving isn't just a tropical pastime — it's a Brooklyn passion. Our borough's very own Jacques Cousteau at Kings County Divers in Sheepshead Bay will teach newbies

everything they need to know before they go under. Beginners can learn the basics in the pool and in the classroom before joining other local divers in trips to scuba spots including freshwater quarries in Pennsylvania and the waters off of Long Island.

Kings County Divers (2417 Avenue U between Mansfield Place and Bedford Avenue in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 448-4232). For information, visit www.kcdivers.com.

MUSIC

Take a 'Vance'

Kenny Vance hasn't changed. His 1950s template — sweet harmonies and gentle melodies a la the Drifters — may have been updated by acts like The Beach Boys, Paul Simon and even Vampire Weekend, but Vance will stick to tradition when he returns to his native Brooklyn.

"Brooklyn's my haunt," the Flatbush-bred Vance said. "To re-create the music of my childhood and adolescence is very emotional for me."

Vance has spent 50 years in the music business, first as a member of Jay and the Americans, and continuing through stints as musical director for "The Warriors" and other movies.

He even had a salacious bit role in Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors" (yes, that's Vance telling Caroline Aaron that he wants to defecate on her during sex).

But 15 years ago, Vance returned to singing — and the so-called "Dylan of Doo-Wop" has not looked back.

"My father always wondered when I was going to get a real job," he said. "But 50 years later, in the blink of an eye, it seems, I'm still working."

Kenny Vance and the Planotones at Asser Levy Park (Ocean Parkway at Surf Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 222-0600) on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7:30 pm. Free. — Robert Voris

TOUR

Past present

You wouldn't know it from looking, but the grim apartment towers on the western end of Coney Island's amusement area was once home to an enormous, red-eyed model elephant.

And the overgrown land beyond Kew-Forest Park's left field fence? That used to be Steeplechase Park.

Learn this and more in the Coney Island History Project's new audio-visual walking tour, a free easy download that its creator hopes will push the latest Coney revival plan towards honoring the neighborhood's past.

"History sells," said the project's Executive Director Charlie Denson.

The audio tour includes wonderful anecdotes about the speculators, swindlers and soundmen who developed — and demolished — Coney.

That context is best evoked during the walking tour's take on Kew-Forest Park — built adjacent to the Steeplechase Park ruins to bring people down to Coney Island in a similar spirit of outdoor summer fun, Denson said.

"Kew-Forest is proof that you can develop Coney Island without going out of scale," he said.

Coney Island walking tour can be downloaded at www.coneyislandhistory.org/index.php?g=tours. — Robert Voris

SHOPPING

Pilgrim's pride

Even the most intrepid Brooklynite can feel that he hasn't fully experienced the cultural riches of our beloved borough.

Charles McVey, the founder of the vital local Web site Never Leave Brooklyn, felt that way sometimes, so he created "Brooklyn Hajj."

A two-day event to encourage exploring.

As the name suggests, this is a pilgrimage — though McVey didn't choose the Arabic word to be politically provocative.

"Brooklyn is known for its cultural positivity — people should make a pilgrimage," said McVey, who said the event was perfect for Brooklynites and outer-borough residents alike.

The cultural extravaganza features businesses in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Fort Greene, Park Slope, and Prospect Heights.

A Brooklyn Hajj "passport" costs just \$8 and gets its bearer discounts and giveaways. D'Mai Urban Spa, for example, is cutting prices 20 percent to all pilgrims.

"I love supporting local businesses," said owner Daniella Stromberg. "This was a no-brainer for us."

The Brooklyn Hajj will have various locations on Aug. 22 and 23. Tickets, \$8. For info, visit www.brooklynhajj.com. — Shannon Geis

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EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY August 21	SUNDAY August 23	MONDAY August 24	WEDNESDAY August 26	THURSDAY August 27
<p>Music & pork Nothing goes better with barbecue than bluegrass music (and bourbon, but let's not get picky). Today, 3rd Ward will throw open its backyard for a pig barbecue, lots of bluegrass tunes, workshops, games and apple bobbing. There'll even be an hour of free Colt .45 starting at 4 pm and a jam session at 8 pm, so bring your banjo.</p> <p>4-9pm, 3rd Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Stagg Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961). Free.</p> <p>7:30 pm, The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). Tickets, \$12 (advance).</p>	<p>'Girls' power It's Little Fair all over again! Amy Ray, one half of the Indigo Girls, is performing solo at the Bell House tonight. If you're a lesbian, or just love the music, you won't want to miss this show! And she's playing with Tosh Reagon, so there are sure to be fireworks.</p> <p>7:30 pm, The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). Tickets, \$12 (advance).</p>	<p>Disco fever Just because you couldn't get to Studio 54 during its heyday doesn't mean you can't party like you did. Head over to Union Hall for "Studio 54: Disco Dance Love Affair," a dance party that will make you want to relive the 1970s all over again. Don't forget your platform shoes and white Polyester suit.</p> <p>8 pm, Union Hall (702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). Free.</p>	<p>Woof run homer It's every man's fantasy — going to a baseball game with his best friend (though, to be fair, in the fantasy, the friend usually buys the beer). Tonight, here's your chance: Bring your dog to the Cyclones game against the Vermont Lake Monsters and participate in all sorts of dual-species fun. There'll also be low-cost microchipping and pet adoption opportunities.</p> <p>3 pm (game is at 7 pm), Kipsan Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497).</p>	<p>Summer time Chart topping, record-breaking disco queen Donna Summer will belt them out at Borough President Markowitz's Seaside Summer Concert Series. But this gospel-trained singer's repertoire includes much more than just "Bad Girls" and "Last Dance." And her photo suggests that she's taking whatever Dick Clarke was taking all those years — she hasn't aged since "On the Radio."</p> <p>7:30 pm, Asner Levy Park (Surf Avenue at W. 15th Street in Coney Island, (718) 222-0600). Free.</p>

THE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, AUG. 21

URBAN PLANT ART: Brooklyn artist Sara Bouchard and German artist Leslie Kuo investigate urban plants and lead walks through the neighborhood. Free. Open Source Gallery (255 17th St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights), www.urbanplantresearch.org.

GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL: Entertainment, activities, information, free food, and prizes. This year's theme: "We Go Hard!" Free. 10 am-3 pm, Cuyler Gore Park (Corner of Greene Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene), www.gency.com.

ART: THE BEST OF THE FIFTH AVENUE ART WALK: Opening reception on Aug. 21. Free. noon-6 pm, Under Minerva Gallery (656 Fifth Ave. between 19th and 20th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 788-0170). www.underminerva.com.

MUSIC: DR. MAMBO: Free. 6 pm, Medgar Evers College Amphitheater (Montgomery St. between Franklin and Bedford avenues in Crown Heights, (718) 270-5055). www.cunyartscenter.org.

FILM: "STILL WALKING": Part of BAM's Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda. \$11 (85 seniors and students). 7 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. Free. 7 pm, Tille's (248 Delcub Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 783-6140). www.tillesofbrooklyn.com.

FILM: "TROUBLE THE WATER": Part of the KFFRC film fest of Bed-Stuy and the African Film Festival of New York. Free. 7:30 pm, Fulton Park (Stuyvesant Avenue and Fulton Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant).

MUSIC: AMY BARK: Indie folk duo performs with Tosh Reagon. \$15 (18 and under). 7:30 pm, The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). www.thebellhouse.com.

FILM: "ON THE WATERFRONT": Indoor and air-conditioned. Part of the Brooklyn Lucean's summer Classic Film Screenings. \$5. 8 pm, Brooklyn Lucean (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4810). www.brooklynlucean.com.

FILM: "ROCK HEART BEIJING": If you think it's hard being a punk rocker in the USA, try making it in China. Use music before, free sangria after. 9:30 pm, Old American Car Factory (232 3rd St. in Gowanus, (718) 417-7362). www.roctopfilms.com.

MUSIC: CABELL: Singer will perform songs from his new album, "Flowers for My Baby." 8:30 pm, Maria Cafe (320 Henry St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (888) 361-9473).

FIREWORKS: Free. 9:30 pm, Boardwalk Surf Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island, www.coneyislandguide.com.

SAT, AUG. 22

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIKE IT: Transportation Alternatives leads a bike ride starting in Brooklyn and going through Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx. Free. 8:30 am-noon, Grand Army Plaza (Under 11th Avenue and Second Arch in Park Slope), www.transit.org/surroundings.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING: Free. Noon, Prospect Park (Prospect Park Center (near park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audiodon.

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC: GRAND STREET COMMUNITY BAND: The all-volunteer ensemble playing traditional American marches. Free. 12 pm, McCarran Park (near Bedford Ave. and Loewer St. in Greenpoint).

THEATER: "TALLY HO! OR NAVIGATING THE FUTURES": The 10-year musical. Free. 2 pm, Coney Island Boardwalk (W. 10th St. at Surf Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (212) 254-1109). www.theaterforfraternity.net.

DANCE SHOW: With nathanice!

RITUALS: Dance company and Dancewave's Kids Company. Free. 4 pm, Von King Park (254 Tompkins Ave. between Lafayette & Green Aves in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (212) 360-8200). www.cityparkfoundation.org/arts.

MUSIC: THREE BAD JACKS: The bastards of rock and roll. \$10 (adulthood). 8 pm, The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). www.thebellhouse.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

LEWIS AVENUE FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-6 pm, Lewis Avenue and Decatur streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-5 pm, PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope). www.parkloppelflea.com.

HATTIE CARTHAN COMMUNITY MARKET: Free. 9 am-3 pm, Hattie Carthan Community Market (Clifton Place and Marcy Avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (212) 594-2153).

ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MCCABEN PARK: Free. 10 am-6 pm, McCarran Park (Bedford Avenue and Loewer Street in Williamsburg). www.artisansfleas.com.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Free. 10 am-5 pm.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SAT, AUG. 22
Martyrs monument memorial. Annual event will feature a keynote address from writer David Axel Weiss. Free. 10 am, Fort Greene Park Visitor Center (Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Street in Fort Greene, (718) 833-4928).

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newroom@brooklynpaper.com

FRI, AUG. 28
Blood drive. Sponsored by the North Flatbush Business Improvement District. Receive a free guest pass from Crunch and juice from Healthy Molecules. 2-7:30 pm, Crunch Fitness (300 Flatbush Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 738-1655). www.wfbd.com.

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Fully baked!

A Red Hook restaurant hosts a real old-fashioned clambake

By Robert Voris
for The Brooklyn Paper

Kevin's restaurant in Red Hook is having its first anniversary, but customers will get a nice gift: an all-you-can-eat, completely affordable clambake.

Even better, all the bivalves at the Sept. 10 will be caught by Kevin Moore, the chef and co-owner of the eponymous, 25-seat Van Brunt Street eatery.

Moore has been clamming near Montauk all summer, and has finally gotten so good at it that he thinks he'll be able to dig



Clam up: Kevin Moore and Caroline Parker will host a clambake at their Van Brunt Street eatery next month.

up enough to fill his customers' plates. And he'll let the shellfish speak for themselves.

"I want to keep it as pure and simple as possible — garlic, white wine, butter for the clams, and maybe some peppers," he said.

The feast will be served buffet-style and will also feature a saffron fish stew. The restaurant doesn't have a liquor license, so make sure to bring your own libation.

While the party is ostensibly for the restaurant, Caroline Parker, Moore's partner, said that it was also a reward for the community that has supported Kevin's in its first year.

"There's a \$10 suggested donation to help us cover our costs, but anyone is welcome to join us for whatever he can pay," she said. "There's something very simple and very direct about having Kevin get the food himself and cook it and share it that's very beautiful."

Clambake at Kevin's (2774 Van Brunt St. between Pioneer Street and Vantage Place in Red Hook, (718) 596-8355). Thursday, Sept. 10, 7 pm. For info, visit mooreparties.com.

'Wett' your appetite!

Ethiopian chicken stew is 'Haile' delicious

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Ethiopian food has, unfortunately, not been a big thing in Brooklyn, despite a foodie culture that once cherished the city's only Cambodian restaurant (now moved to Manhattan), at least two Chinatowns, and ethnic offerings from all corners of the globe.

So we were ecstatic when native Addis Ababa Hibist Legesse opened Bati on Fulton Street earlier this year. From the start, we were impressed by her commitment to authenticity (with genuine spices flown in from her homeland), and her attention to local sensitivities (her beef, lamb and poultry are all organic and there are even vegan items).

But the other day, we ordered up a plate of doru wett, the classic Ethiopian chicken stew, and were blown away by the thick, rich sauce and delectable meat just below its surface.

Though some would champion lamb, a chicken version of wett is the best way to highlight herbe, a shouldn't-work-but somehow-does combination of



The Best Thing We Ate This Week

Hot bowl: The doru wett at Bati, a six-month-old Ethiopian restaurant in Fort Greene owned by Hibist Legesse, is smoky, rich, spicy, delicious and the best thing we ate this week.

chili, basil, garlic, ginger, shallots, fenugreek, and cardamom that is as basic to Ethiopian cuisine as ketchup is to your backyard barbecue. Legesse also offers other

Ethiopian standards, including a milder stew called alchu and a chickpea dish called buticha, but when we want that intoxicating blend of spices that keep our tongues tingling for

hours, doru wett is the only way to go. Bati (747 Fulton St. between S. Portland Avenue and S. Elliott Place in Fort Greene, (718) 797-9696).



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Soul men (and women)

Two nights. One stage. Five classic legends of soul.

It's called "The Brooklyn Soul Festival," and on Aug. 28 and 29, it'll turn the Bell House into a veritable Hall of Fame of a classic, but fading, music style.

"Our vision is to introduce people to music they might not have had a chance to hear otherwise," said Richard Lewis who is organizing the two-day festival with Eli "Paperboy" Reed.

Headliners on the opening night include Barbara Lynn (best known for "You'll Lose a Good Thing"), Roscoe Robinson (who played with Sam Cooke), and Hermon Hinton (who played with Jimi Hendrix and Wilson Pickett).

Closing night will feature Otis Clay (pictured, who had a hit with "Tryin' to Live My Life Without You") and Maxine Brown ("Oh No Not My Baby" from 1964).

"We're basically trying to save an American art form, and we have a brief opportunity to hear these artists in person," Lewis added.

Lewis and another DJ have been



putting on monthly soul music nights at Brooklyn clubs and concert venues. For this, though, the pair joined forces with Reed to put on the much bigger festival.

"We realized nobody was booking these artists," Lewis said. "We figured,

why not track down these artists and bring them into town."

"Brooklyn Soul Festival" at The Bell House (149 Seventh St. bet. Second and Third Avenues, (718) 643-6510; Aug. 28 and 29. Tickets, \$15.

—Jared Foretek

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

and Fourth Street in Park Slope.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Free. 11 am-6 pm. Under the Brooklyn Bridge (Water Street and New Dock Street in DUMBO), www.brownstoner.com/brooklynflea.org

OUTDOOR ART SHOW AND SALE: Free. 11 am-4 pm. Narrows Botanical Gardens (Shore Road and Bay Ridge Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-9848), www.narrowsbg.org

OTHER

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

SHARING CIRCLE: Come for brunch and share a topic. Free. 11 am. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 764-2973), www.brooklynshare.org

FILM, "DISTANCE": Part of BAM's Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda. \$11 (\$8 seniors and students), 3 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

FILM, "PURPLE RAIN": Outdoor movie screening. Free. 8 pm. Habana Outpost (127 Fulton St. at Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 858-9500), www.ecoatery.com

MON., AUG. 24

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

FILM, "HANA": Part of BAM's Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda. \$11 (\$8 seniors and students), 6:50 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS VERMONT: See Monday, Aug. 24.

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, ANDY FRIEDMAN: Country rock from a real New York Jew. 7 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510), www.thebellhouse.com

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS VERMONT: See Monday, Aug. 24.

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

TOUR, GREEN WOOD CEMETERY: Led by Big Onion Walking Tours. \$10 (\$12 students and seniors), 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (118th Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (212) 439-1090), www.bigonion.com

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, SEAN PAUL: With the Mighty Sparrow. Free. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field (Brooklyn Ave. between Rutland



Dutch treat: NiCad, a rock band from Holland, will play Public Assembly in Williamsburg on Aug. 29.

Road and Winthrop Street in Crown Heights, (718) 222-0600), www.brooklynconcerts.com

TUES., AUG. 25

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

OUTDOOR PILATES: The Fitness Guru leads free class. Free. 6:30 pm. Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO, (718) 802-0603), www.brooklynbridgepark.org

FILM, "MABOROSHI": Part of BAM's Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda. \$11 (\$8 seniors and students), 6:50 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS VERMONT: See Monday, Aug. 24.

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, KAYLIE JONES: Author of "Lies My Mother Never Told Me." Free. 6 pm. Powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049), www.powerhousearena.com

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: Monthly meeting. Free. 6:30 pm. Park Slope Genetic Day Center (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-7701), www.alzheimersupportgroup.org

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

THURS., AUG. 27

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

FARMERS MARKET: Lutheran Hospital offers a greenhouse. 8 am-5 pm. Lutheran Hospital (100 55th St. between First and Second avenues in Sunset Park, "One Pot? No problem." Prepare, cook, and eat over an open fire. Part of the Fireworks Feast series. Free. 5-7 pm. Wyckoff Farmhouse (1636 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 527-5400), www.wyckoffassociation.org

FILM, "EDWARD SCISSORHANDS": Johnny Dwyer back in the day. DJ

MUSIC, REGINA OPERA CONCERT: Soloists will present a program of operatic and popular selections. Free. 1:30 pm. New Utrecht Public Library (1743 86th St. in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-1760), www.reginopera.org

BROOKLYN CYCLES VS VERMONT: Plus, "Back in the Park," promotion that lets you bring your dog to the Cycles game. See Monday, Aug. 24 for game details.

DANCE PERFORMANCE: Free. 8:30 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-3300)

READING, KAYLIE JONES: Author of "Lies My Mother Never Told Me." Free. 6 pm. Powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049), www.powerhousearena.com

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: Monthly meeting. Free. 6:30 pm. Park Slope Genetic Day Center (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-7701), www.alzheimersupportgroup.org

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, FIVE LIVE BANDS: A celebration of around, to online record company. \$10. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Bowl (41 Wythe Ave. in Williamsburg), www.brooklynbowl.com/events/detail?id=554

MUSIC, JAZZ: Rob Schimmmer's World of Piano ... and Themselves. \$25 (\$15 seniors, \$10 students), 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Street and Human Street in DUMBO, (718) 224-2053), www.bargemusic.org

FRI., AUG. 28

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, AFTER THE JUMP FESTIVAL: Free. Littlefield (622 Coney St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388), www.littlefieldny.com

GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL: See Friday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, CHARLES DOUGHERTY: Free. 6 pm. Modgar Evers College Amphitheatre (Montgomery St. between Franklin and Bedford avenues in Crown Heights, (718) 270-5055), www.centralbrooklynjazzconsortium.org

FILM, "AFTER LIFE": Part of BAM's Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda. \$11 (\$8 seniors and students), 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

FILM, "NOTORIOUS": Indoor and air-conditioned. Part of the Brooklyn Lyrical's summer Classic Film Screenings. \$5. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lyrical (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816), www.brooklynlyrical.com

FILM, "ST. NICK": A pre-teen Badlands, a lush and visceral young American drift tragedy. Live music before, free sangria after. \$9. 8:30 pm. Old American Can Factory (232 3rd St. in Gowanus, (718) 417-7362), www.cooltopfilms.com

FIREWORKS: See Friday, Aug. 21.

SAT., AUG. 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS BIKE IT: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

PERFORMANCE

NICAD: Dutch rock band performs. 6 pm. Public Assembly (10 N. 5th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 762-5188), www.publicassemblynyc.com. Tickets, \$12.

MUSIC, AFTER THE JUMP FESTIVAL: See Friday, Aug. 28.

SALES AND MARKETS

LEWIS AVENUE FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

HATTIE CARPENTER COMMUNITY MARKET: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MCCARREN PARK: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

BROOKLYN FLEA: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See Saturday, Aug. 22.

OTHER

AUDIOVISUAL, INTERTEXTUAL ART: Victoria Stanton and Christian Richer's performance. "When Parts of You Are Still Arriving." Free. Open Source Gallery (255 17th St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights), www.open-source-gallery.org

URBAN PLANT ART: See Friday, Aug. 21.

ART EXHIBIT: Lynn Beauchemin's photographs. See Friday, Aug. 21.

FILM, "THE WIZ": Part of the KDFRC film fest of Bed-Stuy and the African Film Festival of New York. Free. 7:30 pm. Fulton Park (Stuyvesant Avenue and Fulton Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant).

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Sept. 12 & 13 Safety Preparedness Weekend
September 13 National Grandparent's Day
September 20 Hometown Heroes Day

For details on all Summer Salute to Heroes events, please visit www.intrepidmuseum.org

The Brooklyn Paper

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Feisty One's summertime stories

Smartmom doesn't get the point of summer homework. Isn't summer supposed to be about relaxation, relaxation and fun? Isn't it a time to do things other than school work? Smartmom thinks there's plenty of time for school work during the other 10 months of the year.

But Smartmom has nothing against summer reading. And the Oh So Feisty One has been reading quite a bit this summer. At the moment, she's hooked on a book called "Peace, Love & Baby Ducks" by Lauren Myracle.

"But every day she whines, 'I have to find 'Tangerine.'"

That's the young adult book by Edward Bloor that is assigned to all the incoming seventh graders at her middle school. It sounds like a decent book. But why does she have to read it this summer? In addition to "Tangerine," OSFO has to pick from a list of approved books for another reading selection.

Unfortunately, none of the books she has read this summer are on that list. Sure, the list includes a great group of

books. But she's read a bunch of them and some of them don't interest her at all. At least that's what she tells Smartmom, who knows that the very fact that they're on the list makes them less interesting to OSFO because she's got that anti-authoritarian streak she inherited from Hepcat.

Whatever. Smartmom wondered if "Peace, Love & Baby Ducks" could be substituted for her summer reading book. Why not? It's a perfectly fine book, maybe even a tad literary.

"No, it's not on the list," said OSFO, the oh so literal one.

"Well, maybe we should call the principal to get special dispensation..." OSFO was not having it. Finally, she did pick a book from that list: "The Cat Ate My Gymnast" by Paula Danziger, something she's already read.

From Smartmom's experience with summer reading (and she's had plenty), it's not like the books are integrated into the curriculum even though the kids are required to write a two-page essay about each book.

In fact, Smartmom has never heard about those essays once they're handed in. Smartmom wonders what happens to those essays. Do they go into some gigantic folder called Summer Reading? Are they sent to the recycling?

More important, why do the schools insist on insinuating themselves into the lives of their students 24/7? OSFO's life already revolves around school. So does Smartmom's. But like OSFO, she enjoys the two-month break from school schedules and homework.

She, the American educational system is way behind other countries, which have longer school days and school years. But what's wrong with letting her be the educator for a few months of the year?

That's what summer is all about. It's a chance to spend time with family and friends and to experience new people, places and things. It's also a time to discover the pleasure of unassigned reading.



By Louise Crawford

Smartmom doesn't remember any summer homework when she was a kid. But that was back in the 1970s when progressive education was in vogue. Summer

wasn't a family vacation or Martha's Vineyard. During one memorable summer vacation, the family visited the Grand Teton in Wyoming.

For years, Smartmom went to sleepaway camp, where she had the chance to exist outside of

the strictures of family and school. There she learned to folk dance, to play the guitar and the lyrics to every protest song imaginable.

It was a great time — and a welcome break from school and family.

This summer, Smartmom decided to read Doszpeyev. During the rainy days of June, she read "The Kid," the story of the epileptic Prince Myshkin (and Dumb Editor's favorite of the enigmatic Russian's doorstep books).

On Block Island, she dove into "Crime and Punishment," the great novel about Raskolnikov's mental

California sun, she read "The Brothers Karamazov."

It's been a heavy summer full of nihilism, human psychology and the spiritual, political and social world of 19th-century Russia.

What if Smartmom had required reading? She'd never get a chance to wrap her head around The Brothers K.

Luckily, Smartmom doesn't have to write a two-page essay on her summer reading. But OSFO does and she better get going. It's mid-August and it's time for OSFO to get cracking.

Anyone have a copy of "Tangerine"?

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SHOCKED

Continued from page 1

no way my bill could get so high — unless someone siphoned power from me. I'm certain of it."

Safian said someone must have been stealing electricity from his feed during the months that his bill was outrageously high, but he can't prove it beyond a reasonable doubt — and Con Ed says Safian, not the energy giant, has the burden of proof.

"Con Ed's requirements are impossible," he said.

Safian said the monthly electric charges at his Coffee Street warehouse has been around \$30 for 11 years, but

BACKYARDS...

Sharecropping: Then and now

Stacey Murphy's BK Farmyards sounds like a good idea, but how does it compare to history's better-known example of sharecropping? Here's our first-ever chart comparing backyard farming and post-slavery agri-oppression.

Sharecropping	Farming movement	BK Farmyards
1870s-1890s	Heyday	2009-?
40 acres	Plot size	1/70th of an acre
Gave poor, recently freed slaves a way to work on land that they could not otherwise afford.	Advantage	Gives Yuppies a guilt-free way to make their backyards beautiful and skim off delicious produce at the same time.
Kept paid freed slaves in poverty for generations.	Disadvantage	There go those Sunday barbecues.
Boi weevil, white people	Enemies	Morning glory vines, Fresh Direct

Continued from page 1

of roughly one-seventieth of an acre.

Neighborhood backyards are farmed collectively. Murphy says, she can build community, grow healthy food without pesticides or transportation, and make enough money to plough into more and more farms.

It isn't easy. As with the sharecroppers of the post-Civil War era, Murphy's start-up costs are high, mostly for soil ("Good dirt is hard to find," she said) and building raised plots and irrigation tubing.

And the tight confines of a Brooklyn backyard are a challenge, too. "You can't plant onions near beans because they don't get along" (a Brooklyn garden is apparently like some Brooklyn neighborhoods).

But labor costs are low. "This is a movement of inorganic farming," Murphy said. "They're into food they've read Michael Pollan — and are appalled at how

far food has to travel to get to them.

"And once when we're getting all our compost material from local restaurants and homeowners, the entire cycle of planting, growing and harvesting will be entirely Brooklyn based."

Whatever produce isn't turned over to the landowner will be sold through a CSA, a "community supported agriculture" buying group.

It won't result in big profits, but once a farm is up and going, the only costs are the seeds and paying her farmer. Murphy, who will be growing food as a full-time occupation next year.

That will make her one of only 25 people employed in "crop production" in Brooklyn, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"I've never been called to find the number of farmers in Brooklyn," Bureau economist Lisa Boily. "Mostly, people call me to find out the latest numbers on the financial industry, which employs a lot more people."

power, said Safian.

Con Ed spokesman Allan Drury said that the energy giant inspected Safian's meter and found nothing wrong.

"If someone had been stealing his electricity at the time of the inspection we would have noticed," said Drury, but then admitting that the inspection was on March 18 — after Safian's bill returned to normal, an electrical Catch-22.

For Safian, this Kafkaesque nightmare through New York's power bureaucracy shows that big business isn't looking out for the little guy.

"It's like they are sticking their hand in my pocket and just taking my money," said Safian.

FAMILY CALENDAR

FRI, AUG. 21
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. A Ring. One-ring version of the Ringling Brothers show. \$10-\$65. West 21st Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island. (201) 507-8900. www.ringling.com.
2 pm: Animal tales, folk tales, games, costumes, crafts, skulls and skins for children aged 4-11. Free. Prospect Park Children's Corner/Corner of Flatbush Ave. and Empire Blvd. in Prospect Park. (718) 638-7700. www.brooklynkids.org/childrenscorner.

SAT, AUG. 22
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.
11 am: Kayaking and community rowing at the "Cove between the bridges." No training or prior experience needed. Free. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Cove 1 (Main St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO). (718) 802-0603. www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

12:30 pm: Puppet show, "Aussie and the Wonderful Lamp." \$8 (\$7 children). Puppetworks 1338 South Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope. (718) 685-3391. www.puppetworks.org.

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (enter park at Lincoln and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park). (718) 287-3400. www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

1:30 pm: Science Power Hour. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).
2 pm: Story hour. Free. Immigration Playground (enter park at Lincoln and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park). www.prospectpark.org.

SUN, AUG. 23
Noon: Sunday barbecue and kids fair. Free admission. Bay Ridge Animal Center 805 51st St. in Bay Ridge. (718) 836-3103.
12:30 and 2:30 pm: "Aladdin." See Saturday, Aug. 22.

To list your event, visit BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

1 pm: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.
1 pm: Nature Crafts. See Saturday, Aug. 22.
1:30 pm: Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 22.
2 pm: Story hour. See Saturday, Aug. 22.
3 pm: "The Secret of NIMH." \$5 per person, \$15 per family. Brooklyn Museum 1227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope. (718) 857-4816. www.brooklynmuseum.com.

6 pm: Bingo Board game night. Free. Moose Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 923-9700. themoosepot.com.

WED, AUG. 26
2 pm: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.

THURS, AUG. 27
2 pm: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.
6 pm: Nite-nite! Wi-Fi Spot Night. Free. Moose Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 923-9700. themoosepot.com.

FRI, AUG. 28
2 pm: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.
2 pm: Animal tales. See Friday, Aug. 21.

SAT, AUG. 29
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, Aug. 21.
1 pm: Nature Crafts. See Saturday, Aug. 22.
1:30 pm: Science Power Hour. See Saturday, Aug. 22.

2 pm: Story hour. See Saturday, Aug. 22.
2 pm: Kayaking. See Saturday, Aug. 22.

4 pm: "Shawnee." Play for teens that deals with AIDS, teen pregnancy, STDs, school, balancing relationships and friendships, and other themes. 510. Secondary School for Law 1237 Seventh Ave. between Fourth and Fifth streets in Park Slope. (478) 683-1237. teenwakeup.blogspot.com.

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09

Zeke: Cyclones Freak

By Zeke Faux

Clones bring in big guns

With the major league club out of contention (and mostly in the hospital), the Wilpon family appears to have turned its attention to Brooklyn, where the Li'l Amazon lead over the hated Staten Island Yankees dwindled to two-and-a-half games by the all-star break.

Jeff Wilpon, scion of the Flashing dynasty, was spotted in the Cyclones' clubhouse on Sunday, and soon after, the Mets shocked the New York-Penn League by shipping a top prospect and a bunch of ringers to Brooklyn.

• Third baseman Richard Lucas, who was batting .362 and leading the Appalachian League with a .479 on-base percentage, was called up from Kingsport. • Second baseman Jordany Valdespin, and his .322 average, came down from Savannah.

• Relievers Jake Goldberg and Manuel Olivares, both 23, were sent down from Savannah, where Goldberg had a 2.89 ERA and gave up just 2 hits in 37 1/3 innings, and Olivares had a 2.77 ERA with a remarkably low two homers allowed in 62 innings.

• Lance Hoge, who posted a 2.31 ERA in six relief appearances for the Clones earlier this season, rejoined the club from Savannah.

• And the Mets literally bought another ringer for the Cyclones' stretch run. 25-year-old independent league slugger Scott Grimes, who hit a game-tying, pinch-hit homer in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Oneonta. Still, Brooklyn's post-season prospects don't look so certain — after an unbelievable 16-2 run to start the season, the Cyclones' record has been barely over 500.20-19, while the Yanks went 25-13 in that stretch, trimming the lead by five-and-a-half games.

"I keep hearing the guys talking about the Yankees on the back of the bus," said manager Pedro Lopez. "But if I start worrying about what the Yankees are doing, I'm not paying enough attention to what our guys are doing. We're in control of our own destiny."

Perhaps, but the Cyclones know that with the major league club down and out, the organization is counting on them to bring home a championship.

"We want to win it for Brooklyn. We want to win it for the Mets — not everything's been going well up there," said reliever Bobby Gagg.

With the Wilpons focused on the Cyclones, look for more ringers on the Boardwalk. Couldn't injured stars David Wright, Carlos Beltran, Carlos Delgado and John Maine use a relaxing rehab by taking the waters at Coney Island?

Zeke Faux is a sportswriter for The Brooklyn Paper. His last name is pronounced "Fox."

The Faux Hole

All-Star Dock Doyle will start at catcher for the rest of the season, skipper Pedro Lopez said on Sunday. The manager met with young backstop Juan Centeno after the game to break the news. ... Wes Wreem started Sunday's 2-1 win over Oneonta because Brandon Moore sprained his ankle on Aug. 11. Moore was slated to open the three-game series against State College on Wednesday night, but Darin Gorski made the start. ... Struggling shortstop Luis Nieves was demoted to Kingsport on Aug. 11.

HOME of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage

Lasorda's no 'Bum'!

But LA Dodger skip is in our Hall of Fame

By Zeke Faux

for The Brooklyn Paper

Is pitching 13 innings enough to get you into the Hall of Fame?

If you're Tommy Lasorda, the retired Los Angeles Dodger manager, was inducted into the Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Fame at Koyshan Park on Sunday, despite pitching for Dem Bums for just minuscule parts of two seasons.

Still, Lasorda — who managed the traitorous West Coast incarnation of the Dodgers to two World Series championships — was thrilled.

"I'm honored to be here today. It's quite a fraternity," Lasorda told the crowd.

Of course he was honored! The lefty, who didn't win a game for Brooklyn and posted a 7.62 ERA, is now part of a club that includes true legends Carl Furillo, Don Newcombe and Jackie Robinson.

Lasorda did make some contributions to Dem Bums' history — getting demoted and serving as batting practice homers.

In 1955, Brooklyn's only



Los Angeles Dodger great — and Brooklyn Dodger scrub — Tommy Lasorda meets with (from left) pitchers Bobby Gagg, Mike Powers and Mike Lynn.

championship season, Lasorda was sent down to make room for a more effective lefty — Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax. And before Game 7 of that season's World Series, Lasorda said he threw batting practice and helped the Dodgers figure out Yankee lefty Tommy Byrne's curveball.

"I have to take credit for that win," he said. "But there ain't a lot of batting practice pitchers in the

Hall, and the winning runs in that game were driven in by bona fide Brooklyn Hall of Famer Gil Hodges, whose widow was on hand to honor Lasorda on Sunday.

Still, the famously feisty Lasorda, 81, bristled at this reporter's suggestion that he must have pulled some strings to get his best in the sacred exhibit.

"I don't even know what the hell string I'd pull," he said. "Do you think I belong

here?"

One fan wasn't totally sold.

"He's a heckuva person," said Matt Hughes, 70, who claimed to have witnessed one of Lasorda's six appearances at Ebbers Field. "Not a terrible baseball player."

Lasorda might not have had the best curveball, but he did show some genuine Brooklyn street cred, recalling riding the trolley as a player to Bum-bone's restaurant in Williamsburg, which still has the "best food you can get anywhere in the United States," (Lasorda, also known as "Tommy Lasorda," recommends the crab linguini.)

And he regulated reporters with a story of how he, Johnny Podres and Don Zimmer put one over on some Coney corks.

"We started throwing and we won every stuffed poodle this guy had," Lasorda said. "Next time I came down there, he said, 'You guys are with the Dodgers. Don't ever try to win anything again. It knocked us right out of business!'"

Mark Cohoon can see the future

By Andrew Hoffman

for The Brooklyn Paper

There's a good reason why Brooklyn Cyclones starter Mark Cohoon is so reliable: he can see the future.

"I play out the entire game through my head as if it has happened already, so when I get out there, I already know what I'm going to do and how I'm going to execute my pitches," said the Clones lefty, who was one of six Cyclones named to the New York-Penn League All-Star team last week. "It's almost like déjà vu."

More accurately, it's a pre-ju vu — but it must be working because Cohoon leads the league in wins with seven and has an impressive 2.59 earned run average.

Cohoon picked up this pre-ju vu from

his high school days as a football linebacker.

"I did see [the entire game] with football at first, but as I started playing baseball as much or even more than football, I just did the same thing as a pitcher in baseball," Cohoon explained.

His Cyclone teammates don't care what Cohoon calls it — they just know that whenever the pride of Mansfield, Texas, is on the mound, they have a great chance for a W.

"Mark comes in and pitches with his game everyday," said reliever Mike Powers. "And that's what we need right now."

The Cyclones are clinging to a three-and-a-half-game lead over the Staten Island Yankees with 18 left to play.



Mark Cohoon made the all-star team, thanks to his 7-2 record as a starter.

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